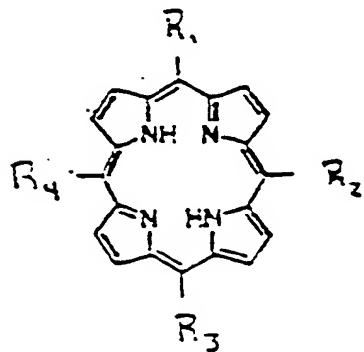


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating cancer in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an amount of a mimetic of an enzymatic scavenger of reactive oxygen species sufficient to effect said treatment.
2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said mimetic is a mimetic of superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase or peroxidase.
3. The method according to claim 2 wherein said mimetic is a mimetic of SOD.
4. The method according to claim 1 wherein said mimetic is a methine substituted porphine or substituted tetrapyrrole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
5. The method according to claim 1 wherein said mimetic is bound to a metal.
6. The method according to claim 5 wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of manganese, iron, cobalt, copper, nickel and zinc.
7. The method according to claim 6 wherein said metal is manganese.
8. The method according to claim 7 wherein said mimetic is a manganese bound methine substituted porphine.

9. The method according to claim 8 wherein said mimetic is 10110, 10111, 10112, 10113, 10123, 10143, 10150, 10151, 10153, 10158 and 10201.

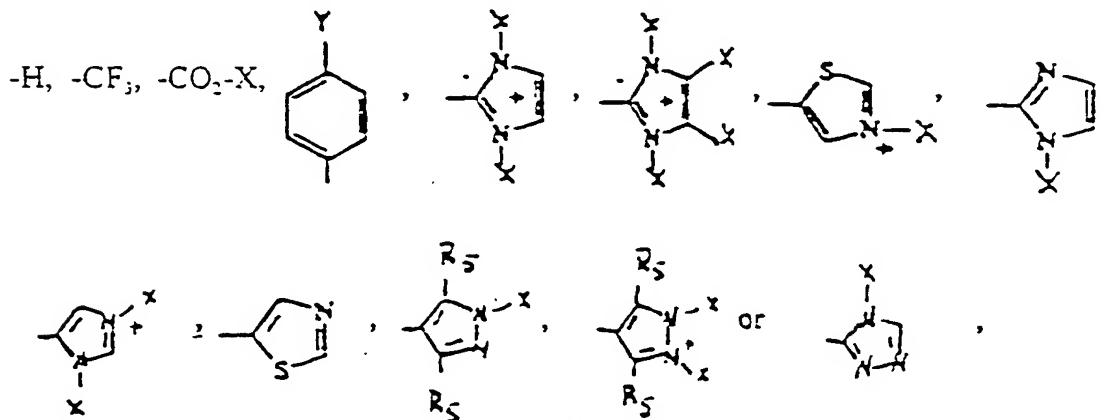
10. The method according to claim 2 wherein said mimetic is of the formula



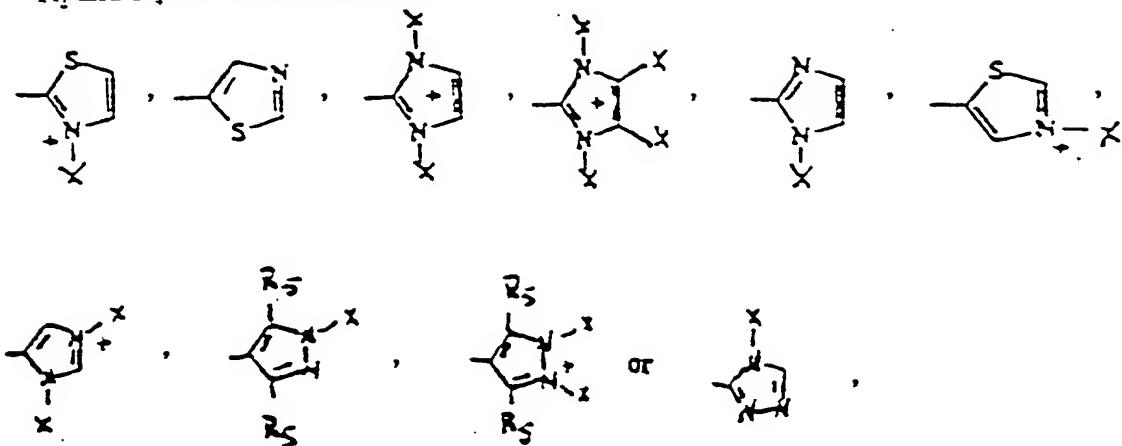
or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

wherein

R₁ and R₃ are the same and are:



R_2 and R_4 are the same and are :



Y is halogen or $-CO_2X$, and

X is the same or different and is an alkyl and each R_5 is the same or different and is H or alkyl, and is optionally complexed with a metal selected from the group consisting of manganese, iron, cobalt, copper, nickel and zinc.

11. A method of protecting normal tissue of a mammal from the toxic effects associated with gene therapy, immunotherapy, radiotherapy or chemotherapy comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an amount of a mimetic of an enzymatic scavenger of reactive oxygen species sufficient to effect said treatment.

12. The method according to claim 11 wherein said mimetic is a mimetic of superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase or peroxidase.

13. The method according to claim 12 wherein said mimetic is a mimetic of SOD.

14. The method according to claim 11 wherein said mimetic is a methine substituted porphine or substituted tetrapyrrole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. The method according to claim 11 wherein said mimetic is bound to a metal.

16. The method according to claim 15 wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of manganese, iron, cobalt, copper, nickel and zinc.

17. The method according to claim 16 wherein said metal is manganese.

18. The method according to claim 17 wherein said mimetic is a manganese bound methine substituted porphine.

19. The method according to claim 18 wherein said mimetic is 10110, 10111, 10112, 10113, 10123, 10143, 10150, 10151, 10153, 10158 and 10201.

20. A method of preventing cancer or preventing the recurrence of cancer in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an amount of a mimetic of an enzymatic scavenger of reactive oxygen species sufficient to effect said treatment.

21. The method according to claim 20 wherein said mimetic is a mimetic of superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase or peroxidase.

22. The method according to claim 21 wherein said mimetic is a mimetic of SOD.

23. The method according to claim 20 wherein said mimetic is a methine substituted porphine or substituted tetrapyrrole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. The method according to claim 20 wherein said mimetic is bound to a metal.

25. The method according to claim 24 wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of manganese, iron, cobalt, copper, nickel and zinc.

26. The method according to claim 25 wherein said metal is manganese.

27. The method according to claim 26 wherein said mimetic is a manganese bound methine substituted porphine.

28. The method according to claim 27 wherein said mimetic is 10110, 10111, 10112, 10113, 10123, 10143, 10150, 10151, 10153, 10158 and 10201.